Non-payment of bonus to tea garden labourers

985. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for non-intervention when most of the tea garden labourers of Assam were debarred from getting 20 per cent bonus this year; and

(b) the reasons for not taking proper steps to improve the conditions of tea garden workers in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) In Assam the normal practice is to pay Bonus as per the provisions of the Payment Bonus Act, 1965.The balance sheet of the company is taken into reckoning in determining the bonus to be paid by that company. However, in some of the companies bonus is paid as per the negotiated settlement with recognized Unions.

(b) The Plantation Labour Act, 1951 provides for the welfare of the plantation labour and regulates the conditions of work in plantation. As per the Act, responsibility of the implementation of various provisions of the Act lies with the respective State Governments.

Changes in minimum wages act

986. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering changes in the Minimum Wages Act to safeguard interest of the workers in the unorganized sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the observations made in the report of the Second National Commission on Labour would be taken into consideration; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that workers of unorganized sector would get the stipulated minimum wages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Government has been considering certain amendments to the Minimum Wages Act to make the legal and